

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 330

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS MOSCOW 6907

STATE FOR EUR/SOV; USIA FOR IEE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC UR

SUBJ: AROUND THE WORLD AUTO RACE

REF: STATE 111251

1. JAWORSKI AND POTASH CALLED ON P&C COUNSELOR MAY 16 AND LATER MET WITH AMBASSADOR, PRESENTING THEIR AUTO RACE PROJECT IN DETAIL. EMBASSY CONTACTED ON THEIR BEHALF PROF. LEONID L. AFANASIEV WHO IS RECTOR OF THE MOSCOW AUTOMOBILE AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION INSTITUTE AND PRESIDENT OF THE AUTOMOBILE FEDERATION OF THE USSR. AFANASIEV RESPONDED QUICKLY AND RECEIVED VISITORS SAME AFTERNOON. ACCORDING TO JAWORSKI THEY FOUND AFANASIEV ENTHUSIASTIC, SAYING THAT HE NEEDED ONLY SOME KINE OF FORMAL GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION TO ENABLE HIM TO GIVE THE PROJECT HIS FULL OFFICIAL SUPPORT. (RESPONSE BY INTOURIST TO JAWORSKI VISIT WAS SIMILAR.)

2. A NEW MORE ACCEPTABLE ITINERARY WAS DISCUSSED WITH AFANASIEV WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE PROPOSED WARSAW-LENINGRAD LEG AND INSTEAD ROUTE CARAVAN WARSAW TO MOSCOW TO KAZAN WHERE CARS WOULD BE PUT ON RAILROAD, STOPPING OFF FOR VISITS IN NOVOSIBIRSK, IRKUTSK AND KHABAROVSK EN ROUTE TO NAKHODKA AND

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JAPAN. JAWORSKI ENVISAGES FIFTEEN CARS WITH TWO

DRIVERS EACH AND SOME SUPPORT PERSONNEL ARRIVING IN
USSR IN MAY 1976. AFANASIEV SAW POSSIBILITY OF ONE
RUSSIAN CAR JOINING RACE.

3. RACE PROJECT SEEMS TO HAVE POTENTIAL FOR
PROVIDING POSITIVE MEDIA AND PUBLIC EXPOSURE WITHOUT,
GIVEN SENSIBLE RESORT TO TRAIN, INTOLERABLE LEVEL OF
PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THERE-
FOR THAT FULL ENDORSEMENT BY BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION
FORMALLY COMMUNICATED TO SOVEMB IN WASHINGTON
(JAWORSKI SAYS HE HAS TALKED WITH SAKOVICH) SHOULD BE
SUFFICIENT TO TAKE PROJECT NEXT STEP WITH SOVIETS HERE.

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